

1994–1997. He then became Interim Director of Schools and nine months later was named Director of Schools.

As Director of Schools, Wise has been responsible for an operating budget upwards of \$300 million and a capital budget of nearly \$100 million, while implementing and overseeing The Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School District. The school district includes more than one hundred twenty-five public schools with thousands of students from all walks of life.

Wise has been honored numerous times by his peers. Recent awards include: the Council of the Great City Schools First Annual Bill Wise Award in 2000; the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Middle Tennessee Chapter, Distinguished American Award in 2001; and the Tennessee School Plant Management Association's Superintendent of the Year for 2001.

Additionally, he has been active in numerous professional organizations including: the American Association of School Administrators; the Tennessee Association for Supervision and Administration; the Council of the Great City Schools, Business Officials Group; the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials; Phi Delta Kappa; Iota Lambda Sigma; and Council of Educational Facility Planners.

His civic contributions include involvement on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Green Hills YMCA; Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross; National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee (Past President); Nashville Institute for the Arts; Cumberland Science Museum; Boy Scouts of America's Middle Tennessee Council; Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, Inc.; and Metropolitan Nashville Public Education Foundation.

With the obvious challenges and changes that Wise has faced during his career in public education, I am pleased to honor him for facing adversity with courage and using the tools available in an imperfect system to craft a successful educational program for students in our community. I respect his philosophy of focusing on learning, support systems and appropriate settings for equity and excellence for all students and promoting change as positive and necessary for continual personal improvement.

In closing, Dr. Wise is to be commended for building a solid foundation for those who will follow in his footsteps and strive to meet the goal of improving educational opportunities for all Tennesseans. I have no doubt that his dedication and service to our community, our state, and our nation, will be remembered for many years to come.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted in favor of H.R. 1885, a bill sponsored by Immigration and Claims Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE GEKAS, which will extend by four months the time illegal immigrants may apply for legal residence while remaining in

the United States. The measure requires illegal immigrants who utilize Section 245(i) of the immigration law to have been in the United States as of December 21, 2000. In addition, H.R. 1885 requires that the family relationship or employment existed by April 30, 2001. These two important provisions contained in H.R. 1885 will ensure that the extension of Section 245(i) does not provide future incentives for illegal immigration or punish legal immigrants waiting in line for their applications to be processed.

I supported this short-term extension of Section 245(i) because it will assist those immigrants who were eligible to apply for a green card as of April 30, but were unable to meet the deadline due to administrative problems, such as the INS not issuing regulations on Section 245(i) until March of this year. At the same time, H.R. 1885 will not reward those who enter illegally with the hope of becoming legal without first returning to their native country. Most importantly, it will send the message that legal immigrants, who waited in line and obeyed our immigration laws, should get first priority in the processing of immigration applications.

Although I supported this four-month extension of Section 245(i) for the reasons discussed above, I will not support any extension beyond this time period. This is not the first time that this ill-conceived provision has been extended. Section 245(i) was first added to the immigration law in 1994. Since that time, it has been extended on numerous occasions, including most recently in December of last year. This has provided persons who wanted to apply for permanent residency status more than enough time to submit their application to INS.

A longer extension than the period of time contained in H.R. 1885 will further encourage illegal immigration and punish legal immigrants waiting for their application to be processed. Also, because U.S. State Department consular officers are better suited than INS employees to determine if the illegal immigrant has a criminal background, a longer extension of Section 245(i) will undermine the important law enforcement goal of preventing criminal aliens from remaining in our country.

CONGRATULATING JOSE DE ESCANDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL"

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jose De Escandon Elementary School in the La Joya Independent School District in my South Texas district on being named a "Blue Ribbon School."

Quality education is the passport to a successful future and Escandon Elementary has been relentless in its pursuit of educational excellence. This award truly symbolizes the many successful futures this school has forged for its students.

La Joya is not a wealthy school district. The majority of the students are Hispanic and many live below the poverty level. It is in an isolated, rural community along the Texas-

Mexico border. Despite these seeming disadvantages, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Robert Zamora and principal Benita Salazar, Escandon has demonstrated what can be achieved when parents, teachers, school officials and the community join together to utilize every resource to its fullest potential. In addition to the Blue Ribbon Award, Escandon has been recognized by the State of Texas as an Exemplary Elementary School, having over 90 percent of its students pass the 3rd grade Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

Blue Ribbon Awards are exclusive in nature and are presented to only 264 elementary schools across the country including both public and private institutions. Schools receiving the award must demonstrate strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission; high-quality teaching; challenging up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; solid evidence of family involvement; evidence that the school is helping ALL students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share best practices with other schools.

On Monday, I will be visiting Escandon Elementary to celebrate its great achievement. The citizens of La Joya are fiercely proud of their town and their school. This award is not only a reflection of the exemplary work that the children have done, but also a reflection of the values and dedication of the whole community. I would encourage every locality to follow La Joya's example. When the entire community works together and commits to helping every child succeed, it will happen and all of our children will receive the quality education they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, because my flight to Washington was delayed, I was unable to vote yesterday evening on rollcall No. 126, concerning a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 428, a bill which calls for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO). I would also like to commend the author of the legislation, my friend and colleague from Ohio, Mr. SHERROD BROWN, for his leadership on this issue. I am proud to join as a co-sponsor of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the World Health Organization is the most important international health organization in the world. In its

charter, the WHO sets forth the crucial objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people, yet today the 23 million citizens of Taiwan are denied appropriate and meaningful participation in the international health forums and programs conducted by the WHO. Currently, there are over 190 participants in the WHO; Taiwan is not one of them. What this means is that Taiwan is not permitted to receive WHO benefits.

Access to the WHO ensures that the highest standards of health information and services are provided, facilitating the eradication of disease and improvement of public health on a world-wide basis. The work of the WHO is particularly crucial today given the tremendous volume of international travel, which has heightened the transmission of communicable diseases between borders. Lack of access to WHO protections has caused people of Taiwan to suffer needlessly.

Mr. Speaker, there is no good reason why Taiwan should be denied observer status with the World Health Organization. As a strong democracy and one of the world's most robust economies, Taiwan should participate in the health services and medical protections offered by the WHO. In addition, the WHO stands to benefit significantly from the financial and technological contributions that Taiwan has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

COMMENDING JUDY BELL—FIRST LADY OF GOLF

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to direct the attention of my Colleagues to Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey where this evening one of golf's legends will be honored. The Professional Golf Association (PGA) will honor Judy Bell as recipient of this year's "First Lady of Golf Award". The PGA First Lady of Golf Award, inaugurated in 1998, is presented to a woman who has made significant contributions to the promotion of the game of golf.

With interest and participation in golf growing to new heights every year, it is appropriate that the stewards of the game honor those who laid a strong foundation for today's success.

Judy Bell's golf career—which spans the 50's, 60's, 70's 80's, 90's and has now reached into the new millennium—has been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. She has made significant contributions as a champion player, Rules official and an industry leader. Her lifetime record of service to the golf industry includes becoming the first woman to be elected president of the United States Golf Association. Bell was elected the USGA's 54th president from 1996–97. Today, the 64-year-old Bell is in her 34th year of service to the USGA, and is consulting director of the USGA Foundation.

Bell is a 1961 graduate of Wichita State University, where she was a two-time NCAA runner-up during a prolific amateur career. She won three Kansas State Amateur championships, and competed at age 14 in the

1950 U.S. Women's Open, which would be the first of 38 USGA championship appearances. She was a two-time Curtis Cup Team member (1960, '62) and a two-time Curtis Cup Team Captain (1986, '88). She is the only individual to captain both a men's and women's U.S. World Amateur Team, leading the women in Stockholm, Sweden in 1988, and the men in Badstow, Germany in 2000. In addition, Judy Bell has been a USGA Rules official since the 1970s and has worked both the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open.

Judy Bell has been a source of inspiration to all she meets. By her work, by her words and by her example, she has brought a countless men, women and youngsters into the game. I urge my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Judy Bell—this year's recipient of the PGA's "First Lady of Golf" award.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL V. FINLEY, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to the 30-year-public service career of Michael V. Finley, the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. After providing leadership in parks ranging from Yosemite in California to the Everglades in Florida. Superintendent Finley will retire in June for a new career in private industry.

Starting with his first ranger position at Big Bend National Park, Michael Finley has worked a rich and varied career helping keep America's National Park system beautiful and educational for our citizens and visitors from around the world. He actually began his life in our parks in 1965 as a seasonal fire control aide, working throughout the West for the next six years.

Over the years, Michael Finley has developed an expertise in inter-governmental relations, working with state and local governments and on Native American issues. He has directed legislative efforts, research projects, law enforcement operations, museums and cultural facilities, engineering and maintenance programs and oversight of mining and mineral uses in the parks. He has worked extensively with the media and public interest groups, and is an international expert on conservation efforts.

His awards have included the National Park Service Superior Performance Award, the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award, and national recognition for public service by conservation groups.

Californians have been among those who have most benefited from Superintendent Finley's expertise. He was a ranger in Pinnacles National Monument and Redwood National Park, as well as ranger and superintendent of Yosemite from 1989–1994. He also served as a federal liaison and trainer in the development of seven state parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California. He was also superintendent of Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and as associate regional director for 13 parks in the Alaska region. Before taking over as Yellowstone superintendent in 1994, he was acting associate director of operations for the park service.

In his role as chief of the crown jewel of American parks, Superintendent Finley has successfully managed a staff of 800 and a budget of \$25 million. He helped create the Yellowstone Park Foundation to solicit private support for the world's first national park, and set Yellowstone on a course that will preserve its natural heritage, while providing the best possible experience for the 3 million people who visit each year.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Finley is leaving the park service to become president of the Turner Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the most dynamic philanthropic organizations in the nation. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service to our nation's parks, and wishing him and his wife, Lillie, continued success in their new endeavors.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleagues from Minnesota, I am introducing legislation congratulating the University of Minnesota and its faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Minnesota is a land grant institution established in 1851, seven years before the state of Minnesota was accepted into the Union. Since its creation, the University of Minnesota has become one of the most comprehensive and prestigious universities in the United States, and is a major research institution spanning four campuses and outreach centers statewide.

During its first 150 years, the University of Minnesota has awarded more than 537,575 degrees, including more than 24,728 doctoral degrees. Among the University of Minnesota's accomplished faculty and alumni are 13 Nobel Prize winners.

The University of Minnesota's faculty, staff, and students have made significant contributions to our nation, and our world, which include the establishment of the world's leading kidney transplant center, as well as the invention of the flight recorder (commonly known as the "black box"), retractable seat belt, and the heart-lung machine used in the world's first open-heart surgery.

The University of Minnesota has also made contributions in other areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, and physical sciences, including the creation of more than 80 new crop varieties, the development of the taconite process, and the isolation of uranium-235.

The University of Minnesota reaches across the state with its Extension Service, which has contact with 700,000 Minnesotans each year. With program areas ranging from crop management to effective parenting, all Minnesotans benefit from the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Minnesota is an esteemed institution of higher learning, and as we mark its 150th Anniversary, I invite my colleagues to join me, and my fellow Minnesota colleagues, in honoring this remarkable university and its contributions to us all.